

Lake Barrett
Acting Director
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

July 5, 2001

010385

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2001

Dear Mr. Barrett:

1 Regarding to your letter dated June 15, 2001: I'm writing about the public comment period for the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (Supplemental Draft EIS). Like many others, I would urge you to unify the new deadlines for public comment by further extending the general comment period for all citizens to August 13, 2001.

The previous decision by the Secretary of Energy to extend the comment period by only 11 days fails to address our concerns about the limited possibilities for meaningful public participation. Compounding this serious problem is the additional 45-day extension granted exclusively to individuals erroneously omitted from the Department of Energy's (DOE) mailing list in May. This situation is not only confusing, but also inequitable. Other concerned members of the public who are not on the DOE's mailing list and have only recently accessed the document(s) have not been afforded the same extension. Also, since it is likely that some of the people originally omitted from the DOE's mailing list found other ways to acquire the document before it was mailed to them on June 25th, the selective extension arbitrarily grants these individuals the benefit of a longer comment period, while denying the same to other interested stakeholders.

The only way we, the public, can get a sense of justice from this confusion is to have a single end date.

Since the Yucca Mountain Project is such a critical issue for so many, public participation must be taken seriously and all must be conducted with utmost integrity. Without correction, the unacceptably short comment period, added to the incongruous deadlines, and general lack of transparency over the Supplement Draft EIS must further erode public confidence in the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Project actions.

Sincerely,

Maribeth Hulsey

Maribeth Hulsey
1142 Capuchino #2
Burlingame, CA 94010